



Mayor's Office, City of Houston

Office of International Affairs & Development

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## Message from the Mayor

I am particularly pleased to share with you that the seven Mayor's International Affairs & Development Councils (MIADC) kick-off reception was held on May 12 in City Hall. Councilmember M.J. Khan and over 200 members of the MIADC as well as members of the Consular Corps of Houston were in attendance, all dedicated to the *One City, One Future* spirit of Houston.



Bill White

Additionally, we are truly honored to formalize two bilateral cooperation agreements with the cities of Calgary, the energy capital of Canada, and Qingdao, China's second largest seaport in terms of foreign tonnage. Both these agreements are gateways to the global economy, and ultimately are a part of many steps that our city takes on a daily basis in securing Houston's international future.

**Bill White, Mayor**

## Message from the Director

Each month, we receive numerous messages of encouragement and support from the community:

*"A special thank you to you and your office staff for arranging the diplomat service that met Vice Mayor Hu at the airport. This gesture was the crowning touch to a successful business encounter."*



Helen T. Chang

*Cherie Laughlin, C.P.M.*

*Bayer MaterialScience, Bayer Baytown Industrial Park*

We will continue to serve you with great pride. Thank you.

**Helen T. Chang, Director**

## May 2006 Highlights

### Offshore Technology Conference Brings the World to Houston

It was impossible to not notice the commotion and activity throughout the early days of May; for four exciting days – May 1-4 – Houston, the *Energy Capital of the World*, became the offshore technology capital of the world. For 37 years, the Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) has set industry standards for offshore energy exploration, recovery and production. With rising global demand from burgeoning marketplaces like China and India, the means of accessing potential energy resources wherever they lie has never been more vital to international growth and stability.



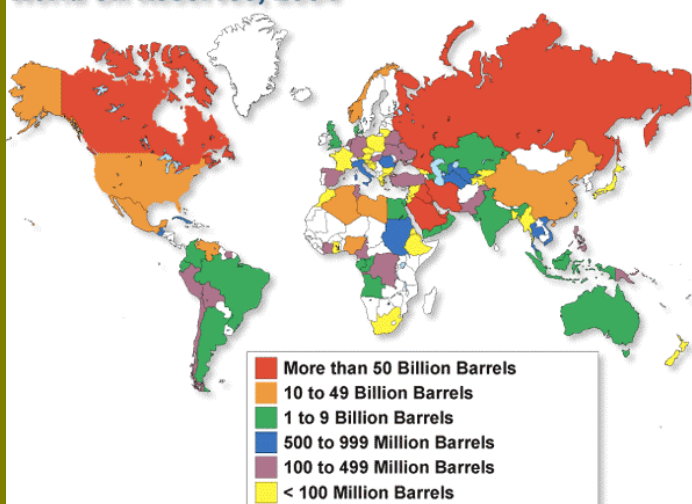
(from left to right) Deya Elyas, Chris Wilmot, Abdulaziz Aldriss and James Gallego

The OTC is one of the 200 top trade shows in the United States and one of the top 10 meetings in terms of attendance. This year attendance topped a 24-year record, welcoming 59,236 attendees from around the globe.

#### Did You Know?

Actual world oil resources may be more than two times current reserves, based on an estimate from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) using USGS data. Reserve growth of 730 billion barrels accounts for new discoveries and the expansion of what can be recovered from known reservoirs due to advances in technology and improvements in economics. But EIA estimates that in 2025, countries around the globe will still have more than 900 billion barrels of oil remaining to be discovered. EIA estimates total world oil resources at more than 2.9 trillion barrels.

#### World Oil Reserves, 2004



Source: Oil & Gas Journal, "Worldwide Report," December 22, 2003

Source: <http://www.spe.org>

An industry extravaganza, the OTC hosts more than 2,000 exhibitors from over 30 countries in the Reliant Center. Almost 78% of OTC attendees are directly linked to energy companies. Home to one of the largest gatherings of energy experts in the world, the OTC draws speakers who are leaders in their fields such as the Secretary General of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, Mohammed Barkindo, Senior Vice President of Exploration and Production, Abd Allah S. Al-Saif, and Director of Rice University's Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology, Wade Adams.

The conference is organized by 12 leading scientific research organizations and societies, and the highlight of this four-day tour-de-force in technology is the recognition of 13 different prizes for new technological contributions. This year companies like Aker Kvaerner Subsea, Baker Oil Tools, Halliburton, and Weatherford, among many others, were honored for their technological innovations. In the days leading up to and during the OTC, two delegations in particular, one from the United Arab Emirates and the other from Saudi Arabia, held networking events throughout Houston to promote business ties and international cooperation. – **By Matthew Shailer**

## APAHA Celebrates Achievements and the Power of Community

The crowning moment in a month of festivities honoring Asian Pacific heritage, the 14<sup>th</sup> annual gala, hosted by the Asian Pacific American Heritage Association (APAHA) of Houston, showcased the great diversity and spirit of commitment that characterizes one of Houston's most dynamic international communities.

The Asian Pacific community constitutes one of the largest ethnic heritage blocs within Houston and is represented in all aspects of city life. Exemplifying a

stunning diversity, the 14<sup>th</sup> annual gala featured former Houston

City Councilmember and Mayor Pro-tem Gordon Quan, State Reps. Martha Wong and

Hubert Vo, designer Chloe Dao, jeweler Mindy Lam, among others. The Gala was held on May 19 at the Hilton Americas Hotel. – **By Jerome Vielman**



Alex Nguyen

2006 APAHA Gala Committee Chair Yuki Rogers

### Did You Know?

Since the change in the U.S. immigration policies in the 1960s and as a result of many geopolitical developments, the population of Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry in the United States has increased dramatically. According to the Census, the number of "Asian/Pacific Islanders" (or "A/PIs") has more than doubled every decade since the 1970s.

Source: <http://www.apahistory.com/about.html>

### Special Thanks

Article submitted by Jerome Vielman, executive director of the APAHA.

## Rio Negro Governor Sees Dynamic Partnership between Argentina and Houston

Invited by the Instituto Argentino del Petroleo y del Gas-Houston (IAPG Houston), Governor Miguel A. Saiz of Rio Negro Province, Argentina, visited Houston on May 21-24. It was an unprecedented event where a governor of a province of Argentina traveled to Houston to launch the *Provincial Hydrocarbon Exploration Plan*. His visit was accompanied by Minister of Production, Juan M. Accatino, Mayor of Viedma, Rio Negro's Capital, Jorge Ferreira, Director of Hydrocarbons, Tamara Perez Balda, and Technical Advisor, P. Marshall. Following a busy agenda,



Governor Miguel A. Saiz (left) and Councilmember M. J. Khan (right)

### Did You Know?

In December of last year, the Houston Airport System inaugurated a direct flight to Buenos Aires, ensuring that Houston serves as a gateway for Argentinean travel for years to come.

Source: <http://www.buyusainfo.net>

Governor Saiz began his official visit and met with the leadership of an energy corporation, Repsol YPF. The same day, Governor Saiz welcomed the opportunity to visit City Hall where he met with Councilmember M.J. Khan. Governor Saiz expressed a sincere gratitude to the warm reception he and his delegation received during his stay in Houston, emphasizing his intention to return in a not too distant future. – **By Claudio Manzollilo**

### Special Thanks

Article submitted by Claudio Manzollilo, IAPG Houston.



## China and Houston Enjoy Growing Partnership

On May 15, the Vice Party Chairman Wang Wenhua of Qingdao, China, and his delegation of business and municipal leaders visited Houston and met with Mayor Bill White. An agreement developing business ties between the two cities and establishing exchanges in the fields of economy, trade, science technology, culture, education and health was signed by the Vice Mayor and Mayor Bill White.

### Did You Know?

Qingdao is a popular tourist town in China and will be the venue for the 2008 Olympic sailing regatta. The unique geographic location of the city hosts winding coastlines, mountains, islands and beautiful European-style buildings with red roofs

Recognizing the vast potential for cooperation in the petrochemical sector between Houston and Shanghai, Mayor White also met with Shanghai Vice Mayor Hu Yanzhao on May 11. Vice Mayor Hu is responsible for managing the industrial (including petrochemical), commerce, agriculture and the energy-related growth of Shanghai which has over 20 million residents.

– By MaryJane Wakefield and David Chang



*Vice Party Chairman Wang Wenhua (left) and Mayor Bill White (right)*

## The Energy Challenge for 2006 and Beyond

The Italy America Chamber of Commerce hosted an *International Chambers Luncheon* at the Four Seasons Hotel on May 17. Guest speaker Amos A. Avidan spoke about “building infrastructure to supply Europe and the world in an era of increased uncertainty.” Increased energy consumption is a challenge and as a result is a growing concern for the world.

### Did You Know?

Italy is one of the least energy consumption countries in the world. Italian energy taxes are relatively high, and this has helped Italy achieve its low energy consumption. There are more than 300 energy laws in Italy at the national level.

Source: <http://energytrends.pnl.gov/italy/it004.htm>

Avidan’s expertise was inquired since he is the Principal Vice President of Bechtel’s oil, gas and chemicals downstream market sector. Amos A. Avidan also serves the American Institute of Chemical Engineers’ Energy Challenges Commission. – By Tiffany Ching



*Bechtel’s Principal Vice President Amos A. Avidan*

## Upcoming Major Event Spotlights

### Port of Bilbao Offers Entering Opportunities

The Greater Houston Partnership, UniportBilbao and its associates will hold a special presentation on June 6, followed by a lunch reception at the Hilton Americas Hotel. Join for an opportunity to promote Houston as a renowned international city and gateway to global market, with a dedication to building regional economic prosperity and advocate of business communities. For more

information, contact 713-844-3662.

Strong international cultural and economic development entwines the connection between Houston and Belize. The Tri-County Black Chamber of Commerce will host its annual *International Business Opportunity Conference* on June 9 at the George R. Brown Convention Center. The conference provides an opportunity to further extend the international recognition of our cosmopolitan city. Join the Chamber and the Port of Houston Authority in welcoming Mayor Mayoress Zenaida Moya of Belize and a Belize trade delegation. For more information, contact 832-875-3977.

### Tri-County Black Chamber Hosts Belize Delegation

### Houston & Calgary: Shared Heritage & Goals

Houston and Calgary are two cities that share a great deal in common, as both are known as the energy capitals of each respective country. It is in this shared history and a joint vision for the future that our cities will affirm on June 13 with the signing between Mayor Bill White of Houston and Mayor Dave Bronconnier of Calgary of the *Bilateral Partnership for Business and Cultural Growth and Cooperation* in the areas of engineering, aerospace, education, life sciences and arts. To underscore the new strategic partnership of the two cities, Mayor White will deliver a keynote address in front of an international audience of 250 energy industry leaders later that afternoon at the *2006 Global Petroleum Show* in Calgary. For more information, contact MOIAD.

Bringing together business, community, political and economic leaders from throughout the U.S. and Arab world is the common theme to bridge cultures through economic initiatives at the upcoming *U.S.-Arab Economic Forum*. Strengthening the U.S.-Arab relations, with a focus on business and partnerships to promote growth, free trade, and an innovative Middle-Eastern society, is the spotlight of this critical event. The conference will be held from June 26-28 at the Hilton Americas Hotel. For more information, visit <http://www.usaeforum.org/>.

### US-Arab Economic Forum

### Mayor of Chengdu Look to Houston for Closer Partnership

In Houston, the quest for economic development and international partnerships is always in full gear. On June 24-27, Mayor Ge Honglin of Chengdu, China, is leading a six-member official delegation to Houston. Mayor Ge will sign a cooperative friendship agreement with the City of Houston and will meet with local business leaders during his visit, aiming to open door of opportunity for collaboration and mutual growth between the two cities. For more information, contact MOIAD.

The *North American Bengali Conference* is the grandest annual celebration of Bengali heritage outside India. The conference, which will be held from June 29-July 2 at the George R. Brown Convention Center, brings together the growing Bengali diasporas of North America, Bengali art, entertainment, and dignitaries to promote Bengali culture in our renowned cosmopolitan city. For more information, visit <http://www.nabc2006.org/>.

### North American Bengali Conference

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## International Houston: Opportunities and Resources

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*This issue, "International Houston: Opportunities and Resources" will continue to provide information on a wide variety of global opportunities as well as international community resources.*

### Job Opportunity for Bilingual Candidates

Deadline: Open until filled

Talent Tree is looking for qualified bilingual candidates (English and Japanese) for its call center. Candidate must be able to read, write and speak Japanese; a high school diploma is required, college degree preferred. For more information, contact Emily Woody at 713-621-6868.

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### The White House Internship Program

Deadline: June 16, 2006

The White House is seeking exceptional candidates to apply for their Fall 2006 term internship program. In addition to normal office duties, interns will attend weekly lectures, tours, and complete an intern service project. For more information, contact 202-456-5979.

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### Monbukagakusho Scholarships

Deadline: June 26 and August 1, 2006

The Consulate General of Japan is now accepting applications for three Monbukagakusho Scholarships to study in Japan. Each scholarship includes round-trip airfare, a monthly stipend, student housing, and exemption of school fees. For more information, visit [www.cgjhouston.org](http://www.cgjhouston.org).

[www.houstontx.gov/moiad](http://www.houstontx.gov/moiad)

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## Mayor's International Affairs & Development Council (MIADC)

### Mayor Bill White Hosts MIADC Official Kick-Off Reception



*Mayor Bill White kicks off the MIADC and honors the many progresses made by the seven regional councils.*

On the evening of May 12, the City Hall Rotunda was abuzz as community leaders, members of the Consular Corps of Houston, and media gathered to celebrate the kick-off of the seven Mayor's International Affairs & Development Councils (MIADC) hosted by Mayor Bill White.

Mayor White addressed the audience that during the critical first few days after Hurricane Katrina, the world saw the true spirit and heart of Houston, and how initiative stemmed from the community in providing aid and shelter to those displaced from New Orleans. Mayor White emphasized that each one of the MIADC members is a leader in their respective communities with invaluable experience, and that he fully supports the

initiatives undertaken by the MIADC to take a proactive and primary role in promoting Houston at the international level. In concluding his remarks, he thanked the MIADC members for their dedication, support and for their efforts in making Houston the city that it is today.

City Councilmember M.J. Khan added to the Mayor's remarks his strong belief in the international quality of Houston and avowed that Houston would be the top competitor for the 2016 Summer Olympics. The seven chairs each elucidated concrete steps their regions are taking to fulfill the Mayor's mandate, expressing plans ranging from macro approaches such as small business development and cross-community communications, to the specific such as exploring cooperation between the Houston Rodeo and the Calgary Stampede. Chair of the Executive Board, Alejandro Giannotti, summarized the evening by expressing a grateful appreciation to Mayor White for establishing the MIADC and projecting a powerful persuasive image of Houston's future, saying that "Houston sits at a global crossroads, and with our strong international background we can capitalize on a plethora opportunities and exchanges for the betterment of the city and our populace."



*Drawing over 200 consul generals and community leaders, the reception brings the biggest crowd ever to the City Hall Rotunda and the Visitors Bureau.*

### MIADC Executive Board

An umbrella organization for all seven regions, MIADC Executive Board believes that it is crucial to build networks among international leaders in Houston. The MIADC is currently working to promote cross-cultural and cross-sector communication within Houston, and has embraced the idea of a central website for disseminating information through the MIADC and into the community. Diversity is another key element in the MIADC's strategy for the fulfillment of the Mayor's vision.



The Executive Board believes that the variety of perspectives, expertise, and connections needed to make economic development a successful undertaking exists within Houston. In a city where one out of every twelve individuals was born outside of the United States, Houston has one of the world's most international populations, and the Executive Board wants this fact to be more generally known. "We are an outward looking city with a population that reflects the world abroad, we just need to bring the world to our door," says Alejandro Giannotti.

## MIADC – Americas

Having exceptionally strong networks and a history of cooperation between MIADC/ Americas members and Latin American counterparts, the MIADC/ Americas aims to translate the existing relationship into developing bright new business prospects for both sides of the partnership. Community outreach is another important component in the MIADC/ America formula, and regional members are examining ways to communicate more effectively within the community and to provide opportunities for non-business developments such as the creation of student internship programs and arts exhibitions. The following individuals are the elected officials from the MIADC/ Americas, a vibrant and diverse region that includes 20 total members representing a broad spectrum of community and business organizations.



*Alejandro  
Giannotti*

Alejandro Giannotti, president and chairman of the board for Bovay Engineers, is elected as regional chair of MIADC/ Americas as well as chair of the Executive Board of the MIADC. Giannotti is a registered professional structural engineer in Texas and Argentina and has long been a cornerstone of Houston's international community. He has served as Director of the World Trade Division Supervisory Board of the Greater Houston Partnership, and as President and Director of the Texas Argentine Chamber of Commerce.



*Eberto  
Amador*

Eberto Amador, principal engineer and business development director – Latin America for CH2M HILL, is elected as chair-elect for the MIADC/ Americas. Amador is the Principal Technologist for CH2M HILL and has served Latin American and Houstonian interests in a variety of capacities. A former consul of Colombia in Houston, Eberto Amador contributes his knowledge and dedicated leadership to a variety of community organizations such as the Colombian Folkloric Ballet and the Colombian Students and Young Professionals Association.

Charles Meacham, partner at Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP, is elected as secretary of MIADC/ Americas. Meacham specializes in international law, global projects and Latin America development issues. His extensive professional history within Latin America enables him to serve outstandingly on various organizations of professional and community import: the Texas-Argentine Chamber of Commerce, the Houston Bar Association (International Law Section) and the American Chamber of Commerce.



*Charles  
Meacham*

### MIADC – Americas Council Members

Mr. Francisco Alejo	Mr. George Donnelly	Ms. Leondria Thompson
Mr. Al Amado	Mr. Carlos Lara	Ms. Adriana Velasquez
Mr. Renato Bertani	Mr. James Lombardino	Dr. Marie Wagner
Mr. Marco Bracamontes	Mr. Daniel Marrero	Dr. Gustavo Wensjoe
Dr. Habib Chamoun	Mr. Juan Carlos Mondelli	Ms. Myra Wilson
	Mr. Vince Ryan	Mr. Mark E. Wise



## Sister City Spotlight – Perth

*This month the International Newsletter will continue to showcase each one of Houston's 16 sister cities around the globe with a closer look at each distinctive locale. This month we feature Perth, Western Australia, the most populous city of the Australian state of Western Australia, and the fourth largest city in Australia.*

Nestled between the Swan River and the Indian Ocean, the city of Perth is the capital of Western Australia. Despite its isolated location, more than 2,700 miles from Sydney, Perth is the fourth largest city in Australia, with more than 1.4 million people.

The area was first inhabited by the Nyoongars, an aboriginal tribe who had lived in the region for more than 40,000 years. Europeans first entered Western Australia in the late 1600's following a series of visits by Dutch and English explorers, and established a colony, the Swan River Settlement, in 1829. This early outpost became the city of Perth.



*Perth, Western Australia*

Although it remains separate from the majority of the Australian population, Perth continues to establish itself as a booming, international metropolis. Perth also has some of the best beaches in Australia. Those who live in Perth boast that it is the sunniest state capital in the country and its perpetually mild climate has allowed it to develop into an extremely outdoorsy area.



*The Terrace is the home of big business, grand hotels, smart cafes and some of Perth's most historic buildings, neighboring modern skyscrapers.*

In addition to mining, which continues to play an important role in the region's economy, Perth has benefited from the recent expansion of oil production in Western Australia. The continued growth of the energy industry has become an important tie between Perth and its sister city, Houston. Air cargo trade between Houston and Australia was valued at more than \$31 million in 2004. There are at least 46 Houston companies that have subsidiaries in Australia and about 5 Australian companies with offices in Houston. Australia was Houston's top trade partner in the South Pacific region accounting for 80.2% of Houston's seaborne shipments with the region. In 2004, seaborne trade with Australia was valued at more than \$400 million.

The Houston-Perth Sister City Association, under the auspices of the Australian-American Chamber of Commerce, hosts events throughout the year. Prior programs included live debates via satellite between high school students in Perth and Houston. For more information on the association and their activities, contact the Houston International Protocol Alliance at 713-227-3395.

– By **Millie Canter and Alma Maldonado**

### *Special Thanks*

*Article submitted by Millie Canter and Alma Maldonado, Houston International Protocol Alliance.*

## Meet the Consular Corps in Houston

# Mexico *Estados Unidos Mexicanos*

*This month we go to North America to speak with the Honorable Carlos Ignacio González Magallón, Mexican Consul General in Houston, to discuss everything from education to tourism developments.*



*Consul General  
Carlos Ignacio  
González  
Magallón*

Consul General Carlos Ignacio González Magallón of Mexico is happy to call Houston home for a variety of reasons. As a career diplomat who has spent much of his life in serving his country, he believes that strong international partnerships are the most comprehensive measures to improve the lives of people. It is here in Houston that he sees the direct benefits of his countrymen in the labor force, and the fulfillment of this belief.

The Consul General is no stranger to the intricacies of consular affairs; he has been posted in Japan, the former Yugoslavia, New Zealand, and in the states of New Mexico and Arizona. His current post, the Consulate General of Houston, represents 37 counties within Texas, as well as the entire State of Louisiana.

It is clear that Consul General González Magallón feels a responsibility for the welfare of Houstonians based on the multitude of characteristics we share with his countrymen. 81% of Houston's thriving Hispanic population is estimated to be of Mexican descent, and one does not have to look far to see the impact the fusion of Mexican and American cultures have had within our city. The consular services the Consulate provides include literacy and education programs, as well as health information campaigns. The Mexican Consulate regularly joins forces with other community organizations such as the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Mexican Institute of Greater Houston.

Consul General González Magallón delights in detailing the extensive ties his country has to Houston. Between Mexico and Houston there is \$11 billion in annual trade, and because of that trade Houston has created a vibrant Hispanic market that is estimated to be the fifth largest in the United States.



*Map of Mexico*

Houston is becoming one of the biggest travel destinations for Mexican business leaders and tourists. In 2003, Houston's partnership with Mexico brought about 2.2 million international passengers traveling between our two countries, using the Houston Airport System, which serves 31 locations throughout Mexico, as a hub. In fact, two of Mexico's largest carriers, Aeromexico and Aviacsa, have central offices in Houston. The Consul General is eager to see what future growth will arise from the continuing deregulation of the flight industry in Mexico, which will lower fares and thus the barriers to international travel. According to the Consul General, "Mexico and Houston are strongly interlinked, and future growth and partnership can be brought about if we keep working on what has succeeded and if we keep an eye out for future opportunities, wherever they might arise."

**– By Matthew Shailer**

## International Hub: The Houston Ballet



*Managing Director*  
*Cecil C. Conner, Jr.*

The Houston Ballet is truly an international organization! In 1955, the founding members of Houston Ballet Foundation had a vision for dance in Houston, to create a resident ballet company and to create a school which would train its dancers. Today, the Houston Ballet is fully functioning and its Managing Director, Cecil J.

Conner, Jr., has helped retire the Company's accumulated \$1 million deficit and helped develop the Company's endowment to \$47 million, one of the largest of any American ballet company.



*Artistic Director*  
*Stanton Welch*

Stanton Welch, an acclaimed Australian choreographer, assumed the creative leadership of the Houston Ballet as Artistic Director in July 2003. Comprised of 52 dancers from all over the world, the Company includes artists who have won gold and silver medals at major international competitions. Additionally, the

Ballet's Academy provides high quality dance instruction to 300 students, and offers a summer intensive program which welcomes students from all over the world.

Under this strong dual-leadership, Houston Ballet Foundation has seen the fulfillment of its goals; an internationally acclaimed ballet company which is now America's fifth largest and an academy which supplies over 40% of the Company's dancers. The New York Times has hailed the Houston Ballet as "one of the nation's best ballet companies." Stanton Welch, who has created ballets for many of the world's leading companies, has choreographed three works for the Houston Ballet that have been signature pieces for the

Company: *Indigo* (1999), *Bruiser* (2000) and *Tales of Texas* (2004).

One of the leading ballet companies in the world, Houston Ballet Foundation has toured extensively to critical praise in Europe, the United Kingdom, the Orient and Canada.

In July 1995, the Houston Ballet was the first full American ballet company invited by the Chinese government to tour the People's Republic of China. An estimated 500 million people witnessed the Houston Ballet's

production of *Romeo and Juliet* when the Company's opening night performance was telecasted live on television in China. Over the last five years, the Company has emerged as one of the most effective international ambassadors for the city of Houston, performing in London, Hong Kong, Toronto, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow.

– By **MaryJane Wakefield** with reporting by  
**Houston Ballet**



### Did You Know?

Throughout its extraordinary growth period, the Houston Ballet's operating expenses have grown from less than \$1 million in 1975 to over \$14 million today. In May 1987, the company launched an ambitious endowment drive. The Houston Ballet's endowment stands at over \$45 million, as of May 2004, making it one of the largest endowments of any dance company in the United States.



## The Global Bridge: Italy-America Chamber of Commerce of Texas

*Each month the International Newsletter will feature a section “the Global Bridge” introducing the chambers of commerce in Houston dedicated to promoting Houston’s international image.*

What do you think when you say “Italy?” – Art, museums, music, fashion and, maybe pizza. But Italy today is much more: it is the hub of style and quality of life, great wines and food, sophisticated machineries, mechanical tools, and equipments for the energy industry.

Fifteen years ago, “THAT” Italy was unknown in Houston. Therefore, a group of visionary Italian and American corporate leaders, professionals, merchants and businessmen decided to create the Italy-America Chamber of Commerce of Texas in Houston. Created in 1992 with the primary goal of promoting a new image of the country and developing trade relations between Italy and the United States, the Chamber focused on Texas and the Gulf of Mexico areas. The Chamber wanted to get to another target – the Italians in Houston, and they also wanted to promote Houston in Italy. That goal continues today and business and commercial relations between Italy and Texas are stronger everyday. The Chamber is a non-profit membership organization and is part of the network of 73 Italian Chambers of Commerce located in various countries worldwide, 10 of which are in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) area, in major cities of Canada, Mexico and United States.



*President Luciano Topi of the Italy-America Chamber of Commerce of Texas*

Representing companies or individuals that have or are interested in establishing business relationships between the U.S. and Italy, the Chamber brings together business – ranging from individual entrepreneurs to large corporations – advancing the interests of its members through contacts and interactions with

government agencies, trade associations and leading international organizations. President of the Chamber is Luciano Topi, born in Rome and with successful worldwide working experiences. He has recently been nominated as chair of the Business Development Marketing Committee in the Mayor’s International Affairs and Development Council/Europe. The Chamber takes this nomination as acknowledgement of the work that the Chamber is doing for the international community in Houston.

**– By the Italy-America Chamber of Commerce of Texas**

### Did You Know?

The Chamber also has a strong presence in the international community in Houston and sponsors several activities that attract an international audience and that offer network opportunities in a more relaxed business settings:

- Executive Business Discussion – luncheon meetings featuring a guest speaker addressing international business issues of interest to the members.
- Social events – Designed for the emerging professionals, monthly Italian-style after hours events introducing Italian art, culture, foods and wines and businesses.

### Special Thanks

*Article submitted by the Italy-America Chamber of Commerce of Texas.*

## International Frontier – Pat Foley

*Every month we focus on a Houstonian who has made an indelible mark on our city through outstanding contributions and services to the growth of Houston as an international city.*



*Pat Foley*

As International Business Manager of the Greater Houston Partnership (GHP) for the last 20 years, Pat Foley's dedication and professionalism have contributed to

strengthening Houston's position as a gateway to the global marketplace.

"I receive a great deal of satisfaction matching individuals from foreign countries with companies and organizations here who might partner with them in the future. In much of international business, the difficulty is knowing the correct person to speak to about a particular issue, and I try to help these delegations along with the process," says Foley, who is fluent in Malaysian, Indonesian and Chinese. An example of one week of Foley's schedule includes briefings and meetings with delegations from Africa, the Vice Governor of Shandong, Turkey Underground Gas Storage, the Spanish Ambassador and an Indian trade mission. These varied delegations from all over the world have viewed the methodical manner in which Foley approaches every export problem and follows it through to a successful conclusion. "My goal is to accelerate Houston exports and help improve our U.S. balance of trade. The world's appetite continues for products that are efficient, time-saving and fruitful in their allotted niches," says Foley. She is so

adept at encouraging trade that last year the GHP created the "Pat Foley Award" to be given to those whose performance in the promotion of U.S. exports to the world had been judged as outstanding.

One of her special talents is her ability to meld traditional Oriental methods with sophisticated Western business methods. "In Asia, the business approaches are less direct than they are in America. A relationship between the two parties must first be established in Asia before there are direct discussions of actual business dealings," says Foley. A Malaysian native who lived in Kuala Lumpur for 35 years before moving to Houston, Foley developed a fondness for Texas country music at an early age. Her favorite song, *Mother the Queen of My Heart*, based on Texas life was sung to her by her father when she was only five years old in Malaysia. Ballroom and country dancing are two other favorite hobbies of Foley's as well as the cooking of Asian dishes. She also keeps very busy with her three sons and three grandchildren.

A graduate of the State University of Minnesota, Foley found the climate there too cold for her liking and moved here 20 years ago, making Houston the beneficiary of her many talents. – **By MaryJane Wakefield**

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★★★★★  
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Fax: (713) 247-2100**

**Next Submission  
Deadline:  
June 20, 2006**

## June – 2006 Event Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Venue/Contact
June 1	7:30am	Houston Networking News: HNN Lead Exchange Breakfast	Venue: Amazon Grill Contact: 281-778-6661
June 1	8:30am-4:30pm	City of Houston: Environmental Summit 2006	Venue: Marriott Westchase Hotel Contact: 713-837-9132
June 1	1:30pm	Ten Thousand Villages: Live Demonstration by Master Silversmith from Niger	Venue: Ten Thousand Villages Houston Contact: 713-533-1000
June 1	7:00pm-8:00pm	The Italian Cultural and Community Center: Salsa Lesson	Venue: ICCC Contact: 713-524-4222
June 2	7:15am-9:00am	Houston Technology Center: HTC Technology Champions Meeting	Venue: 410 Pierce Contact: 713-658-1750
June 2	7:30pm	Indo-American Charity Foundation: Kick-off Reception	Venue: Oakland Farm Contact: www.iacfhouston.org
June 3	9:00am-Noon	Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Hispanic Training Series, Business Plan	Venue: University of Houston Contact: 713-644-7070
June 3	7:00pm-11:59pm	The Greater Houston Partnership: 2006 World Trade Gala	Venue: InterContinental Hotel Contact: 713-844-3636
June 4	7:00pm	Bangladesh Association: Bangladeshi Idols Concert	Venue: Cullen Performance Hall Contact: 281-996-8025
June 5	6:30pm-8:30pm	Japan-America Society of Houston: Language Classes	Venue: JASH Contact: 713-963-0121
June 5	6:00pm-7:30pm	Houston World Affairs Council: Discover Guatemala	Venue: 2001 Kirby Drive Contact: 713-522-7811
June 6	10:30am-2:00pm	The Greater Houston Partnership: Port of Bilbao presentation	Venue: Hilton Americas Hotel Contact: 713-844-3662
June 8-August 3	3:00pm-5:00pm	Houston Technology Center: Rice Entrepreneurship and Mentoring Series	Venue: McNair Hall, Room 318 Contact: 713-348-3443
June 8	11:30am-1:30pm	The Greater Houston Partnership: Why Salespeople Fail & What to Do About it luncheon	Venue: GHP Contact: 713-844-3692
June 8	4:00pm-5:30pm	The Greater Houston Partnership: Linking Up	Venue: GHP Contact: 713-844-3683
June 8	8:00pm	The Italian Cultural and Community Center: Laughter and Comedy	Venue: ICCC Contact: 713-777-8151
June 9	11:00am-12:45pm	Tri-County Black Chamber of Commerce: International Business Opportunity Conference	Venue: George R. Brown Convention Center Contact: 832-875-3977



<b>June 10-17</b>	--	<b>U.S. Export Assistance Center: Mission to India</b>	Venue: New Delhi and Mumbai Contact: 713-844-3661
<b>June 10</b>	<b>9:00am-Noon</b>	<b>Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Hispanic Training Series, Small Business Bookkeeping</b>	Venue: University of Houston Contact: 713-644-7070
<b>June 11</b>	<b>11:30am</b>	<b>The Italian Cultural and Community Center: Pasta Luncheon</b>	Venue: ICCC Contact: 713-522-7811
<b>June 12</b>	<b>6:00pm-7:30pm</b>	<b>Houston World Affairs Council: The Land of Eternal Spring, Southern China</b>	Venue: 2001 Kirby Drive Contact: 713-522-7811
<b>June 13</b>	--	<b>City of Houston: Mayor Bill White's keynote address at the 2006 Global Petroleum Show</b>	Venue: Calgary Contact: MOIAD
<b>June 14</b>	<b>11:30am-1:15pm</b>	<b>The Asian Chamber of Commerce: Crisis in Higher Education luncheon</b>	Venue: Westin Galleria Hotel Contact: 713-782-7222
<b>June 14</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>The Italian Cultural and Community Center: Daughters of Italian Heritage</b>	Venue: TBD Contact: 713-522-7811
<b>June 15</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>The Professional Service Council: The Battle for Top Talent luncheon</b>	Venue: InterContinental Hotel Contact: 713-844-3678
<b>June 15</b>	<b>6:00pm-7:30pm</b>	<b>Houston World Affairs Council: What Way Forward Now for Israel and Palestine</b>	Venue: The Junior League Contact: 713-522-7811
<b>June 15</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>	<b>The Italian Cultural and Community Center: Salsa Lesson</b>	Venue: ICCC Contact: 713-522-7811
<b>June 17</b>	<b>9:00am-Noon</b>	<b>Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Hispanic Training Series, Small Business Bookkeeping</b>	Venue: University of Houston Contact: 713-644-7070
<b>June 19</b>	<b>6:00pm-7:30pm</b>	<b>Houston World Affairs Council: The Mysteries of Morocco</b>	Venue: 2001 Kirby Drive Contact: 713-522-7811
<b>June 20</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Hispanic Women in Leadership: Annual Meeting Elections</b>	Venue: 3110 Southwest Freeway Contact: hwilorg@yahoo.com
<b>June 20</b>	<b>8:00am-4:00pm</b>	<b>The Greater Houston Partnership: Houston, Texas Small Business Summit and Procurement Fair</b>	Venue: Westin Galleria Hotel Contact: 713-844-3683
<b>June 20</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>The Italian Cultural and Community Center: The Italian Dine Around, Piatto</b>	Venue: Piatto Contact: 713-522-7811
<b>June 21</b>	<b>7:30am</b>	<b>Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Networking Breakfast and Mini-Trade Fair</b>	Venue: Westin Galleria Hotel Contact: 713-644-7070
<b>June 21</b>	<b>9:30am-5:00pm</b>	<b>The Greater Houston Partnership: PetroVietnam Business Briefing</b>	Venue: GHP Contact: 713-844-3661
<b>June 22</b>	<b>8:00am-1:00pm</b>	<b>WorldCity: Houston TradeNumbers Forum</b>	Venue: InterContinental Hotel Contact: <a href="http://www.worldcityweb.com">http://www.worldcityweb.com</a>
<b>June 22</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>	<b>The Italian Cultural and Community Center: Salsa Lesson</b>	Venue: ICCC Contact: 713-522-7811

June 23	11:30am-1:30pm	The Greater Houston Partnership: International Business Distinguished Speaker Series	Venue: 1801 Allen Pkwy. Contact: 713-844-3635
June 23	8:00pm-1:00am	The Ambassador's Club: 9 <sup>th</sup> Annual Soiree Gala	Venue: Hilton Hotel Contact: 713-977-4923
June 24	9:00am-Noon	Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Hispanic Training Series, Small Business Bookkeeping	Venue: University of Houston Contact: 713-644-7070
June 26-28	7:00am-6:30pm	Bilateral US-Arab Chamber of Commerce: US-Arab Economic Forum	Venue: Hilton Americas Hotel Contact: 713-880-8168
June 26	6:00pm-7:30pm	Houston World Affairs Council: Peru, Journey of the Incas	Venue: 2001 Kirby Drive Contact: 713-522-7811
June 27	TBD	City of Houston Mayor's Office: Chengdu delegation	Venue: -- Contact: MOIAD
June 27	6:30pm	Italian Cultural and Community Center: Arcodoro Ristorante presents Sardinian Dishes	Venue: ICCC Contact: 713-524-4222
June 29-July 2	--	North American Bengali Conference	Venue: George Brown Convention Center Contact: <a href="https://nabc2006.org/">https://nabc2006.org/</a>
June 29	7:00am-1:30pm	Global Energy Management Institute: The 2006 Power Conference	Venue: University of Houston Hilton Hotel Contact: 713-743-4895
June 29	6:00pm-7:30pm	Houston World Affairs Council: The Road to Peace, The Future of Palestine Under Hamas	Venue: Westin Oaks Hotel Contact: 713-522-7811
June 29	7:00pm	The Italian Cultural and Community Center: Salsa Lesson	Venue: ICCC Contact: 713-522-7811

*We have one simple goal: to promote Houston as a renowned international city.*

The contents are intended for general information purposes only.